

**From:** JewisonP@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/8/02 8:58pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
United States Department of Justice

Let me first note that I am a longtime Microsoft (MS) product user. I started with Apple, played with Unix and LINUX and naturally gravitated to the MS platform due to business needs and productivity.

I preface this so as you know that when I am writing you today to voice my support for the settlement that was reached on November 6, 2001, between MS and the government, you represent, my request and opinion is based not on pure emotion but on experience.

Productivity is the issue. MS provides it. You (the court, politicians, special interests and unsuccessful competitors) have conspired to come against MS, each for your own reasons. If the competitors had as good a product as MS, they would be where MS is and not seeking to steal their profits or destroy MS by use of greedy and unethical lawyers. Netscape Navigator is a perfect example of this. If it wasn't prone to crashing, I would probably still be using Netscape today. I discontinued using it several years ago due to its unreliability factor.

Lest you think me bias, may I acknowledge that I have and am still using several third party products (both software and hardware) on top of the MS platform without conflict or bugs. So, again, where is the problem? Where is this monopoly that MS is supposed to have? As an American consumer I can still pick and choose to acquire the software that I desire. Yes, I may have to initiate contact or search for a separate vender to acquire something made by MS but doesn't have the features that I desire, but you and I do that every day when we buy groceries or other products. One store may not have the cookies I like, so although they may have several different types of cookies on hand, I will make my purchases there and on the way home stop off at another store that has the cookies I like. And if the first store is giving away their cookies free with, say, the purchase of milk, fine, but I'm not prevented from going to the other store on my way home and buying the cookies I like. It just means that I now have two cookies. One I will eat and the other thrown away or given to the dog.

I like many in America do not understand your "Monopoly" issue. It doesn't exist as far as I can see. What exists is political greed and lack of moral character. The politicians found that they could gain some extra cash (it would be called extortion or racketeering if it were done by the common man) and votes by pretending to support the little guy. It always looks good when you have stand up for the little guy and slap down the "rich" capitalist. It's the mentality we suffer with these days because the government has

taught us all to be victims. How better to succeed, by everybody having nothing. We all share the same misery. It's killing America, not only business but also the social structure and fabric of this great country.

The courts/lawyers jumped into the fray, because that's what vultures do. They prey on the vulnerable. Mr. Gates and MS were going about their business. Clinton and his cronies were not getting political kick backs from this ingrate. Seagate was a friend and made huge contributions. They, however, were being beaten up in the marketplace by someone who was producing a better product and marketing it better. Clinton was having his own problems and saw an opportunity to deflect a little heat and pay back a political debt. And, Viola! Enter the courts.

Besides who stands to profit. Look at the huge sums that are being collected by both the prosecution and defense attorneys. In the end, its the litigation attorneys who will walk away from this with their pockets full. The consumer will again suffer the disadvantage by paying more for less. MS will have to put the breaks on innovation, which in their industry may be the death knell.

This case was political from the beginning. It's time to settle this thing. The offers have been made and accepted, except by a few greedy State Attorneys. Let them go back to their casinos and constituent for their State's needs. Leave Microsoft alone. They and we the consumer do not owe them a thing. Because they have increased their state's spending by 63% (according to America Legislative Exchange Council) over the decade of the 90's is not Microsoft's fault. These local politicians need to either cut spending or seek the deficiencies from their own constituencies. They should not seek to balance their budgets upon the back of MS. MS sells a good product. Do not punish them further with this injustice.

You have exacted the penalty. Microsoft is willing to suffer the "penalty". Let them get back to what they do. Making a quality product that puts productivity in American business which has put us ahead of the world. To further delay or seek greater damages is only to deter and prolong the injustice. The US court was out to find a scapegoat for a previous administration. That administration is now gone. The court is supposed to be a separate branch of the government, not a Brown Shirt for the Executive Branch. This case should have never come before the courts. Accept this settlement as is and clear your calendar for real crimes and criminals.

Thank you for suffering through this diatribe, but may I state for the record that I support this settlement and believe it will have a broad positive impact on the state of our economy at the present time.

Sincerely,  
Patric J. Jewison  
a registered voter from  
Billings, Montana

